



CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
USDA FOREST SERVICE

Scoping Comments

Proposed Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project



Date: **October 4, 2007**

Name*: **Scott Murphy, Principal Planner**

Affiliation (if any): **City of Ontario**

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(See attached letter)

**Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.*

Submit comments by mail using this comment sheet (fold, stamp, and mail); insert additional sheets if needed. Comments may also be submitted to the project hotline at (888) 331-9897 or emailed to TRTP@aspenerg.com. Comments must be postmarked by October 1, 2007.



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October 4, 2007

John Boccio/George Farra
California Public Utilities Commission/Angelos National Forest
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

SUBJECT: TEHACHAPI RENEWABLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT (NO. A.07-06-031)

Dear Mr. Boccio and Mr. Farra:

The City of Ontario has reviewed the Notice of Preparation prepared for the Tehachapi Project and attended the September 20, 2007, scoping meeting at the City of Chino Hills. Based on a review of the written information and the public testimony, the City offers the following comments for consideration in the EIR/EIS:

1. At the scoping meeting, the City of Chino Hills presented an alternative alignment to that proposed by SCE. The alignment would utilize existing right-of-way through the Chino Hills State Park and terminate at a new substation within the park. As required under CEQA, project alternatives must be considered. The alternative provided by the City of Chino Hills appears to be a feasible alternative and the City of Ontario recommends a full environmental analysis be undertaken as part of the EIR/EIS to determine the potential impacts of the alternative relative to the proposed alignment.
2. The fact sheet indicates that two tower types are available for the 500 kV lines, a skeletal design and a tubular steel pole design. Given that the area proposed for the improvements is in close proximity to existing and planned residential development, tower aesthetics are extremely important. As a result, the City of Ontario requests the tubular steel pole design be used to mitigate the aesthetic impacts created by the project.
3. The proposed alignment involves the construction of new 220kV towers in close proximity to existing and planned residential developments. While not identified in the fact sheet or NOP, the City of Ontario requests a similar tubular steel pole design be used for the new 220 kV towers to mitigate the aesthetic impacts created by the project.

4. The current proposal calls for both 500 and 220 kV lines adjacent to existing development west of Haven Avenue, south of Chino Avenue. The placement of both lines in this area requires an additional 150-foot wide easement be obtained. This location impacts existing entitled projects and proposed developments. The City of Ontario requests that the EIR/EIS consider a reduction in the easement width from 150 to 100 feet to minimize potential impacts to the development.
5. The City has heard there is a method whereby the noise associated with transmission lines may be reduced. The City requests that, if available, this method be applied to the proposed facilities to mitigate impacts to adjacent planned residential areas.
6. The City has adopted a transportation implementation plan for the New Model Colony that identifies the location and width of streets. The City requests that SCE coordinate tower locations with the City outside of planned street rights of way to avoid relocation of towers at some future date.

We look forward to continued dialogue with you, the CPUC, and SCE as the project moves through the environmental review and entitlement process.

If the City can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact Jerry Blum, Planning Director, at (909) 395-2199 or jblum@ci.ontario.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Gregory C. Devereaux
City Manager